Trial - -

(Continued from page one)

Shortly before noon Saturday, Judge Clark denied a prosecution motion for a psychiatric examination of Mrs. Abraham. The examination would have been for the purpose of determining her ability to prepare a "rational defense."

County Attorney John Welch, arguing for the motion, said the defense had raised the sanity issue "clearly and succinctly."

Defense Attorney Dyer placed Mrs. Abraham in the witness stand at 3 p.m. Friday, after the state had rested its case at 2:31 that afternoon.

MRS. ABRAHAM, under her direct and cross examination, testified that in July of 1965 she "blacked out" as she was driving to work. She testified that she frequently "heard screaming in my ears" when she was alone. She said she had been seeing a psychiatrist regularly since her husband was killed, but Friday could not recall his name. She testified that her defense attorney had taken her to the psychiatrist.

Mrs. Abraham testified Friday that her husband had forced her to engage in "abnormal" sexual acts since July of 1964.

Questioned by Defense Attorney Dyer, she said her husband had become impotent shortly before that time.

"I had discovered a few weeks before that (July, 1965) that Will was getting old and was unable . . ."

". . . To have normal relations?" Dyer completed the answer for her. She answered yes.

She said she had told no one about what was happening because she did not want to embarrass her husband.

"I WOULDN'T shame Will by telling them that," she said. Mrs. Abraham, occasionally crying and clenching a rumpled handkerchief in her hand, described the night that her husband was shot.

She said they had left church hurriedly at her husband's insistence and had driven home. When they got home, she said, they noticed that the gate into the sheep pasture was open. She said her husband accused her of leaving it open and struck her with his hand.

Then they went inside; Mrs. Abraham said she went into the kitchen to place a telephone call to San Diego, Calif., to some cousins they were to meet in Memphis on the following Tuesday.

She said she was unable to complete the call and turned, the receiver in her left hand, to find that her husband was pointing his revolver at her over her shoulder.

"WHEN I looked around," she testified, "I saw the gun. It was on my left shoulder, I think."

She said he pulled her jacket off, but then left the room. She went into her room and changed into a housecoat and slippers. Then she said she went back and began clearing off the supper dishes from the table. Her husband again appeared in the kitchen door, she said, with a terrible look on his face.

"I've never seen such a look," she said. "He looked like he was crazy." Then, she said, he turned and walked back into the den, placing the pistol on the table.

She then went into the den, she said, and he told her to undress.

* * *

"I TOLD HIM, 'Will, let's go into the bedroom,'" she said, but she said she complied with his order.

Then, she said, he performed an "abnormal" sexual act upon her.

Later, she said, her husband told her he would kill her if she attempted to leave the room.

The next thing Mrs. Abraham testified to was that "when I came to I was standing there and I had this gun in my hands."

She said she remembered putting the gun "down there where we had been wrapping the fish." She said she went several times in the den, once picking up one of her dead husband's hands."

* * *

"NOW ERMA," Dyer asked, "did you kill Will?"

Her head down and speaking in a low voice, she replied, "I must have, I must have. I can't remember it but I must have."

Special Prosecutor Phillip Mansour cross examined Mrs. Abraham. He said she shot her husband, turned up the volume on the television set, took his wallet, concealed the murder weapon in the freezer and then went to the neighbors.

She denied it.

* * *

SATURDAY MORNING, when court resumed at 9 a.m., Mansour asked Mrs. Abraham if she would mind if the state examined her hospital records. She replied, "I'm not trying to hide anything. I don't care what you look at."

The FBI expert witnesses Friday established that the blood found on Mrs. Abraham's clothing was human, but could not identify it further. Testimony also established that the bullets which struck Mr. Abraham were fired from the gun found in the freezer.

Communist Party Concerned Over Negro Participation

NEW YORK (UPI) — Concerned with a lack of participation in the civil rights movement, the Communist Party plans to increase Negro membership during the next few months.

Roscoe Proctor, a Negro spokesman-delegate, told a Friday news conference that the party's national convention was concerned with a "gap" in participation in the "freedom" movement.

The gap reflected on Negro membership, Proctor said, but predicted that more Negroes would join the party in the next few months.

"There has been a growing interest, particularly the (Negro) youth in documents, policy and the direction of the party in this country," Proctor said.

During Friday's session, the 400 delegates discussed the trade union movement in America, according to a delegate spokesman from Maryland. George Meyers said the party would seek "a unity of the labor movement and the freedom movement...to end the rule of the Dixiecrats in the South."

Although the convention was unable to reach agreement on a specific resolution, Meyers said the party would concentrate on "organizing the unorganized, strengthening the existing labor organizations."

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Irish Chief Begins His Second Term

DUBLIN (UPI) —President Eamon de Valera, probably his last election battle behind him, began a second seven-year term in office Saturday as the symbolic head of an independent Ireland.

Now in his 84th year and almost blind, the tall, erect Gaelic-speaking President was formally inaugurated at a simple, 35-minute ceremony to become the world's most senior head of state.

For De Valera, it was the climax of a lifetime that had spanned Ireland's march to freedom—a life that began in a humble dwelling in New York in 1882 and led to the highest office in Ireland.

He was elected to a second term June 1 when he narrowly defeated the opposition candidate, 49-year-old Tom O'Higgins by a slim 10,000 votes out of more than one million cast.

WITHHOLD FUNDS

WASHINGTON (UPI) —Federal agencies were urged Friday to withhold funds for construction of city sewage systems that pollute streams.

The House Government Operations Committee, in asking the ban, released a report of studies on national resources that showed 1,500 cities combine sewage and rainwater disposal, arrangement that lets untreated sewage enter streams when rainwater volume is high.

News Briefs

STEERING COMMITTEE TO MEET

The Greenville Teen Club will have a steering committee meeting Monday at 8 p.m. All steering committee members should attend.

DEDICATION CEREMONY

The United Pentecostal Church on Highway 1 North will hold a dedication ceremony Monday at 7:45 p.m. Rev. E. J. Elland will officiate. The public is invited.

Armed "Deacons For Defense" Join March

TOUGALOO, Miss. (UPI) — The disciplined young Negro took a place in the rear ranks of the "Mississippi freedom march" and fell into step with the column that was pointed toward Jackson down Highway 51.

The Negro raised a portable two-way radio to his lips, pressed a button and spoke quietly into the set. Farther up the marching line, another young Negro raised his own radio to his ear and listened.

* * *

THESE were not parade marshals; nor were they an integral part of the strange and discordant march that set out June 7 in Memphis, Tenn., more than 200 miles to the north. The bulges beneath the clothing of the Negro youths were pistols, and they were loaded.

They were the "Deacons for Defense," a militant protective society born during the turbulent days of racial strife in Bogalusa, La., and dedicating to striking back if attacked by whites.

Appearance of the "Deacons" in the Mississippi marching column marked a significant—and to many a frightening—shift in tactics of Negroes who for 11 years had been lulled and led by the non-violent oratory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

In this new column of marchers, there were also new faces who had arrived in the civil rights leadership echelon since last year's Selma-to-Montgomery march, a mere 50-mile jaunt. And there were new slogans such as "black power" to replace the traditional cry of "freedom, freedom."

While leaders of the civil rights movement are assessing the gains and losses of the current march, one factor stands out at the end of the trail. Militancy came of age on the road between Memphis and Jackson.

* * *

KING tried to preserve a force willing to turn the other cheek. Mostly, he succeeded. But it required many long meetings with such "new faces" as Stokely Carmichael, the Trinidad-born director of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, which has taken a nationalist swing under his leadership.

Carmichael rejects the idea of nonviolence, except as a tactical maneuver, and openly welcomed the arrival of some 15 "Deacons" to help of security.

The security force blended easily with the marchers and fell rapidly into the spirit of the walk, but their discipline never deposed as they took up positions in the line.

* * *

AT NIGHT, the "Deacons" guided their cars with headlights facing outward on the perimeter of campsites and at least half the force slept in the open with easy reach of their vehicles. They were well armed.

The man who started this march had been upstaged by a sniper's shotgun blast. But he, too, thinks that non-violence goes just so far. He is James H. Meredith, the "Ole Miss" Negro graduate who was shot on a roadside two days after he set off almost alone for a walk to Jackson to prove that fear has left Negroes on the back roads of Mississippi.

With Meredith recovering from shotgun pellets and shock, his mission was taken up by King, Floyd McKissick, the head of CORE, and Carmichael. Their big names quickly collected a growing throng as the column trudged in summer heat south through the Delta and then out into the hill country.

* * *

THE advocates and the opponents of such operations in the Mississippi march will long argue over the gains and losses in the racial movement. But it clearly turned up the evidence that some rural Negroes who were completely lethargic had their interest whetted in such activities as voter registration for the first time.

"Well, I never thought much about it before," said one Negro woman waiting her turn in a registration line at a small town where registrars were routinely processing applicants.

"I don't know how to write," the woman said, "and I thought I couldn't register until now."

FARM WORKERS

WASHINGTON (UPI) — A Senate labor subcommittee, ironing out final details of a bill to extend federal minimum wage coverage, has rejected the inclusion of another 382,000 farm workers.

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